GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:369
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
SUMMIT ON HIV/AIDS
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media leaders summit on HIV/AIDS held recently in New Delhi took note of the fact that HIV positive cases in India have already crossed the five million mark;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an alarming rise in HIV positive cases; and

(c) the steps proposed by the summit and being adopted by the Government to combat HIV/AIDS cases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI AMBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Reasons for rise in HIV positive persons are as under:

- Low awareness of people about HIV/AIDS in the country, especially rural and female population in the highly vulnerable states;
- High proportion of migrant population;
- Inadequate safe sex practices; and
- Large number of vulnerable population.

National AIDS Control Organization conducted National Baseline General Population Behavioural Surveillance Survey in 2001. The findings revealed that 76% of the respondents had heard of HIV/AIDS and 46.8% of respondents were aware of two important methods of prevention and transmission, 11.8% of males and 2% of females reported sex with non-regular partners while only 51.2% among males and 39.8% among females had reported using condoms during the last sex with their non-regular sex partners.

(c) Emerging from the Summit, were the following steps and action points:-

(i) All 25 Executives from Media Companies who attended signed a statement of support pledging to work together to raise public awareness about HIV/AIDS.

(ii) To ensure synergy of efforts, the media would report on activities, identify opportunities, share resources and co-ordinate the entire media effort with NACO.

(iii) New commitments were made by several attending Media Leaders, including Dainik Jainik, Hindustan Times, MTV, NDTV, Prasar Bharti, SET India, STAR TV, SUN TV, Hindu and Zee TV.